

Merrillville Police Department



2008
Annual Report

MERRILLVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In reviewing the data presented herein, keep in mind that the principle objective of the compilation is to make readily available a purposeful collection of criminal, traffic and police statistics for administrative and operational use. At the same time, the data is provided for those not directly associated with police operations, but having a related interest in the problems of law enforcement in our community.

Proper reporting and collecting of police activity and criminal incidents, along with interpretation of these statistics, are an essential element of enforcement and prevention of crime.

Police records afford valuable administrative and investigative use. Failure to maintain an adequate records system results in a loss in police performance and a loss to the community. The intelligent use of law enforcement records is a vital tool in meeting the challenge for efficient police work.

Crime is a social problem and the concern of the entire community. A community's crime rate is primarily the product of its inhabitants, victims, as well as the perpetrators of crime. Law enforcement, through its records, statistically report on local crime conditions as a part of its community responsibility. Positive action to reduce crime depends to a large extent on the degree to which the individual citizen supports law enforcement.

Police efforts to control crime are limited to: Prevention, by exposing the nature of the crime, principally the effect of contributing community factors; Suppression, through properly oriented and alert patrol procedures; and Deterrence, through successful investigation and apprehension of the offender.

Factors which cause crime are many and variable; therefore, no positive conclusion can be arrived at by comparing the crime figures of one year to those of another year without first considering the factors involved. The material summarized in the criminal section of this report can be used as a guide in determining the deviations of the crime rate between individual years. These rates can be compared to the national averages reported in the F.B.I. Uniform Crime Report.



Merrillville Police Department

Police Commissioners

Rick Bella

Larry Ulbrich

John Johnson

Administration

Chief of Police

Joseph Petruch

Assistant Chief of Police

James Donohue

Operations Commander

Lance Huish

Support Services Commander

David Barron

Patrol Commander

Daniel Kijurna



Merrillville Police Department

Personnel Statistics

2008

Enforcement	50
Civilian - Full time	13
Civilian - Part time	6
TOTAL:	69

Enforcement Rank Percentage

Personnel	% of Total	Total Within Rank
Chief	2%	1
Assistant Chief	2%	1
Commander	6%	3
Lieutenant	2%	1
Sergeant	18%	9
Corporal	10%	5
Patrolman	60%	30

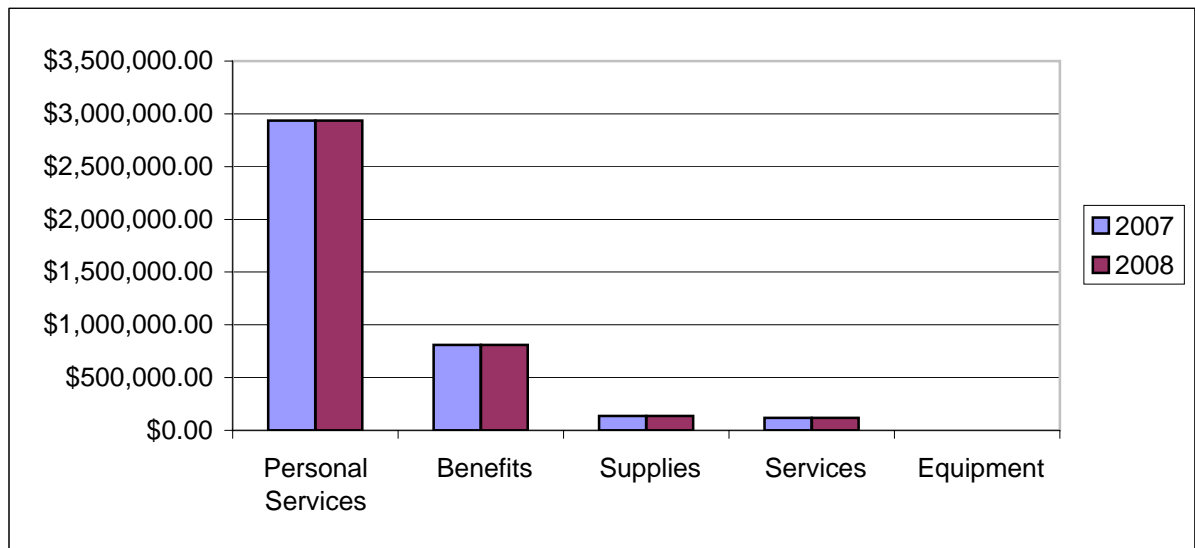


Merrillville Police Department

Funding

2007	
Personal Services:	\$2,934,735.00
Benefits:	\$809,606.00
Supplies:	\$136,000.00
Services:	\$117,000.00
Equipment:	\$0.00
Totals:	\$3,997,341.00

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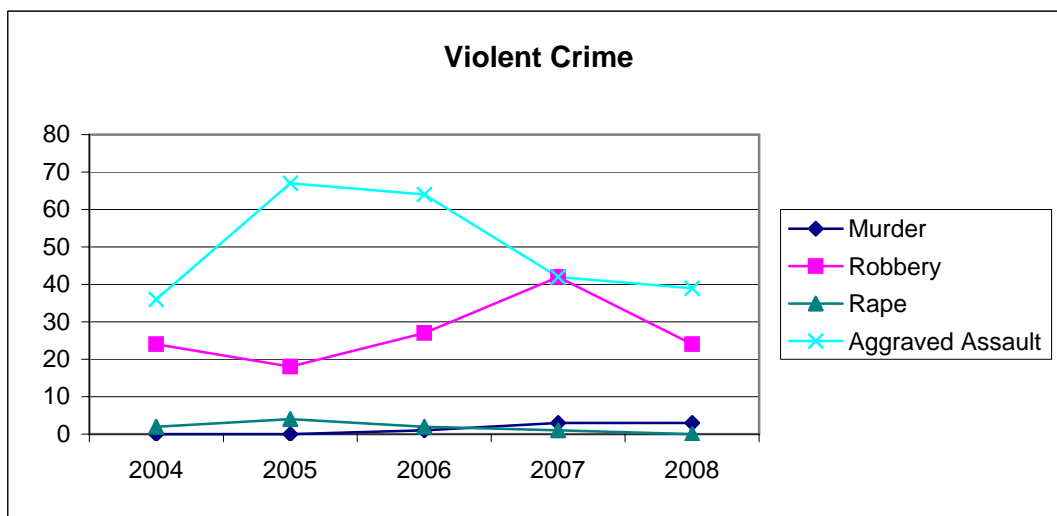


Merrillville Police Department

FBI Crime Statistics - Adults

Violent Crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Murder	0	0	1	3	3
Robbery	24	18	27	42	24
Rape	2	4	2	1	0
Aggravated Assault	36	67	64	42	39
Totals:	62	89	94	88	66

Property Crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Burglary	93	82	93	122	110
Vehicle Theft	166	154	152	130	107
Theft	824	754	857	808	712
Arson	1	1	0	2	6
Totals:	1,084	991	1102	1,062	935





Merrillville Police Department

Adult Arrests

Offenses	2007	2008	% Change
Murder	2	3	+50
Rape	1	0	-100
Robbery	36	12	-67
Vehicle Theft	10	12	+20
Burglary	25	20	-20
Aggravated Assault	33	15	-55
Vandalism	28	38	+36
Drug Abuse	47	70	+49
Liquor Laws	16	31	+94
Drunkenness	156	167	+7
Theft	248	243	-2
Other Assaults	94	131	+39
Forgery/Counterfeiting	4	2	-50
Weapons	11	10	-9
Offenses-Family/Children	3	0	-100
Operating While Intoxicated	171	186	+9
Disorderly Conduct	73	107	+47
Sex Offense	6	5	-17
Fraud	29	35	+21



Merrillville Police Department

Juvenile Arrests

Offenses	2007	2008	% Change
Robbery	3	1	-67
Vehicle Theft	4	3	-25
Burglary	4	10	+150
Aggravated Assault	2	11	+450
Vandalism	3	16	+433
Drug Abuse	20	12	-40
Liquor Laws	10	5	-50
Drunkenness	1	0	-100
Runaways	31	44	+42
Theft	41	80	+95
Other Assaults	49	63	+29
Operating While Intoxicated	1	0	-100
Disorderly Conduct	18	18	+0
Sex Offense	2	2	+0
Fraud	0	1	+100
Stolen Property	1	1	+0
All Other Offenses	11	13	+18
Totals:	201	280	+39



Merrillville Police Department

Reports Taken

Offenses	2007	2008	% Change
Homicide	3	3	+0
Rape	2	0	-100
Robbery	42	24	-43
Non-Domestic Battery	244	196	-20
Domestic Battery	63	39	-38
Burglary Residence	72	91	+26
Burglary Business	50	19	-62
Vehicle Theft	130	107	-18
Vehicle Recovery	73	42	-42
Larceny Residence	106	100	-6
Larceny Business	93	85	-9
Larceny Auto	247	214	-13
Larceny Other	145	134	-8
Shoplifting	173	179	+3
Arson	3	6	+100
Totals:	1,446	1,239	-14

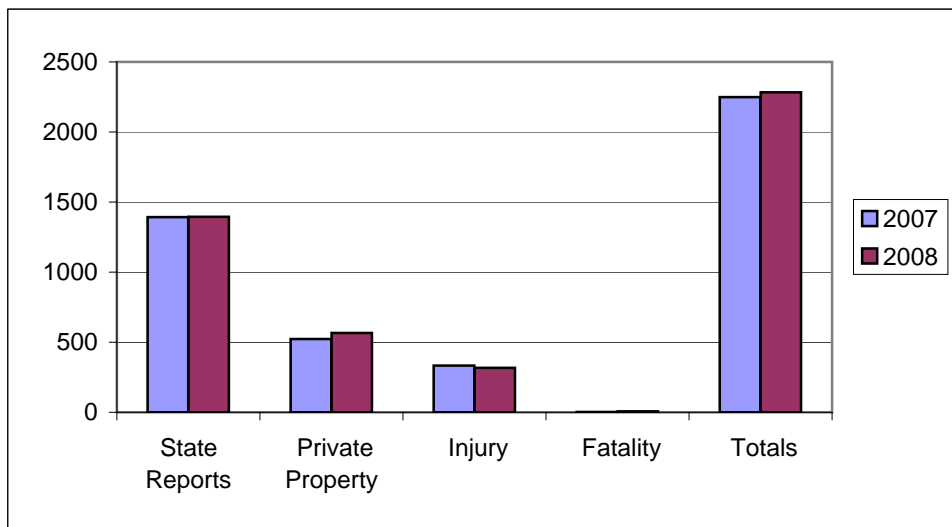


Merrillville Police Department

Accidents

Accident Types	2007	2008	% Change
State Reports	1392	1394	+0
Private Property	523	566	+8
Personal Injury	333	317	-5
Fatality	2	7	+250
Totals:	2250	2284	+2

Other Accident Stats	2007	2008	% Change
Primary Cause was Alcohol	44	39	-11
Hit and Run	220	171	-22

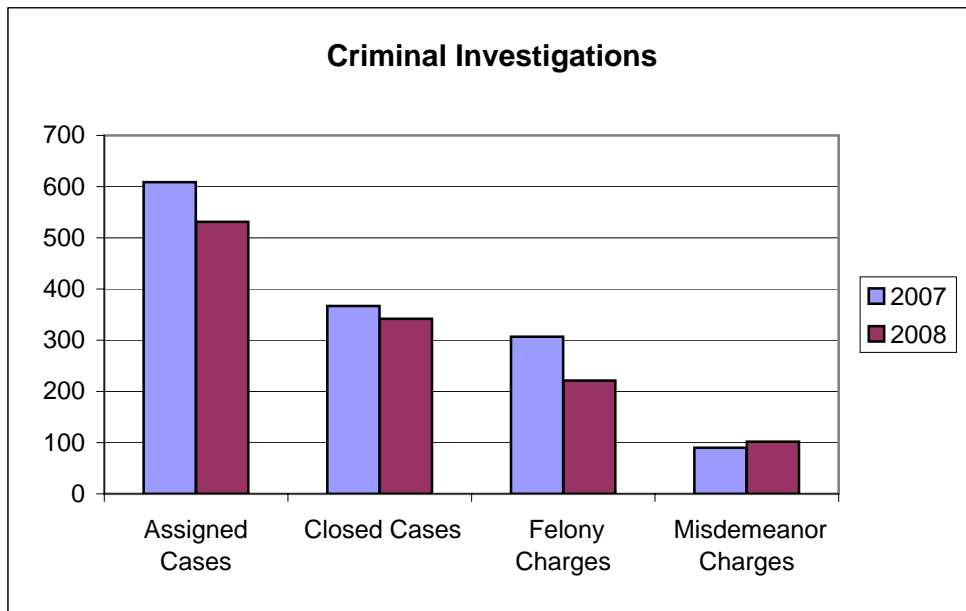




Merrillville Police Department

Criminal Investigations

	2007	2008	% Change
Case Reports Assigned	609	531	-13
Case Reports Closed	367	342	-7
Felony Counts	307	221	-28
Misdemeanor Counts	90	102	+13
Case Closure Rate	60.3%	64.4%	+7





Merrillville Police Department

Patrol Operations

	2007	2008	% Change
Traffic Citations	11,037	10,716	-3
Traffic Warnings	3,023	1,856	-39
O.W.I. Arrests	171	195	+14
Handicap Parking Citations	420	285	-32

Alarm Citations	70	32	-54
Dog Citations	70	72	+3
Firelane Citations	149	208	+40
No Parking Citations	121	96	-21
Weed Citations	56	87	+55
Other Citations	711	605	-15
Inpound Animals	353	321	-9
Dog Bite Citations	11	15	+36
False Alarm Citations	1,920	1,796	-6

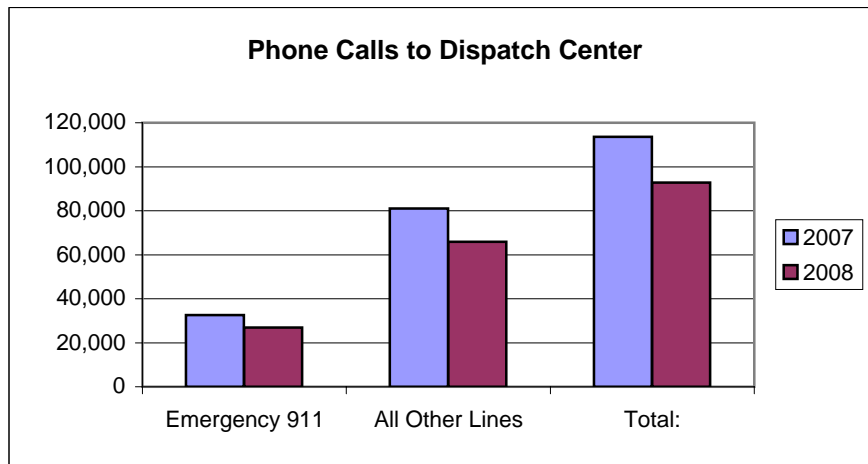
Police Service Calls	52,856	44,365	-16
Police Case Reports	3,880	3,573	-8



Merrillville Police Department

Phone Calls to Dispatch Center

Phone Lines	2007	2008	% Change
Emergency 911	32,606	26,932	-17
All Other Lines	80,991	65,903	-18
Total:	113,597	92,835	-18





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